FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS.

ISSUED WEEKLY BY THE BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS,
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WASHINGTON, D.C.

VOLUME 9. JULY 16, 1924. NO. 3.

Feature of Issue - WHEAT OUTLOOK.

CROP PROSPECTS

CEREALS

Crop conditions in Germany improved during June so that on July 1 all cereals were above average, except winter rye, which was only one point below. A fine wheat crop is expected according to a radiogram from the office of the American Agricultural Commissioner in Berlin. Spring was late in Germany and crop conditions earlier in the season were not very satisfactory.

Canadian wheat acreage officially estimated July 11 is 21,676,000 acres compared with 22,672,000 acres last year, or a decrease of about 4.4 per cent. More important than the acreage decrease, however, is the condition report now placed at 92 per cent of the 10 year average. Private reports now place the probable production at about 330,000,000 bushels.

Latest advices on Russian crops for 1924, by cable to the Department of Agriculture from the Hon. F.W.B. Coleman, American Minister at Riga, Latvia, state that Russia expects some 50,000,000 short tons of principal grains, which means wheat, rye, barley, and oats. Out of a total of 208,000,000 acres sown to winter and spring grains throughout the entire federation, 15,000,000 acres are more or less affected by drought and crop failures.

Satisfactory and good harvests are expected in the consuming regions, which refers to western Russia and the areas surrounding the large cities. The same conditions are said to prevail in the majority of the central provinces and considerable portions of the Ukraine, Siberia, and Kirghizia. Toward the south the conditions grow worse. More heat and drought occur in those regions, with the probable result that the wheat crop, which centers in South Russia, will show the greatest losses. However, the Russian authorities seem confident of being able to prevent even an appearance of distress, at the same time maintaining grain exports at the 1923 level of 3,600,000 short tons.

CROP PROSPECTS, Cont'd.

RICE

Rice production in Tonking, Indo-China for the first six months of 1924 is estimated at 394,000 short tons of cleaned rice compared with 286,000 short tons for the same period of 1923 as reported by a cablegram from the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome under date of July 6. The total production was 652,068 short tons in 1923.

OUTLOOK FOR AMERICAN WHEAT MORE FAVORABLE.

The market outlook for American wheat at the beginning of the new crop year is materially improved over that on July 1 last year, according to the United States Department of Agriculture.

The large world crop of 1923 amounting to approximately 3,500,000,000 (3-1/2 billion) bushels outside of Russia was consumed more rapidly than seemed probable and the carryover into the new crop year is not materially greater than last year.

World Wheat Crop Below Last Year.

Present prospects for production in 1924 are for a crop about 10 per cent less in the Northern Hemisphere than last year. A decrease of about 7 per cent has been officially reported from about one-half of the producing area and reductions in area and crop conditions indicate a greater reduction in the countries from which no official reports are yet available.

Although European production last year outside of Russia was 220,000,000 bushels greater than in 1922, imports of wheat into European markets amounted to approximately 530,000,000 bushels as compared with 545,000,000 bushels for the preceding year. Russia became a factor for the first time since the war and supplied about 40,000,000 bushels of rye and some 25,000,000 bushels of wheat.

This situation points to considerable elasticity in the consumption of wheat in continental European countries. The British markets took about 14,000,000 bushels more than in 1922-23 but this was only a little more than sufficient to make up for the shortage in the production. Lower prices resulting in increased farm consumption, a reduction by France in the duty on wheat and flour imports, and a shorter crop of potatoes in Germany contributed to increased consumption in continental Europe.

World Exports Large

The total exports of the non-European surplus wheat producing countries for the year ending June 30, 1924, are estimated at 750,000,000 bushels as compared with 697,000,000 bushels in the previous year. The difference between these wheat exports and the net imports of European countries is accounted for by the increased demand in deficit countries outside of Europe, particularly China and Japan, and by slightly larger quantities afloat at the close of the year than at the close of the preceding year.

OUTLOOK FOR AMERICAN WHEAT MORE FAVORABLE, Cont'd.

With this increased consumption the large world's surplus which was a depressing factor in the United States markets during a good part of the year has been more rapidly consumed than was expected and the carryover July 1 in the principal exporting countries was but little larger than last year.

In the United States, while net exports were 75 million bushels less than the previous year the stocks on farms at the close of the crop year July 1 were only 30,696,000 bushels compared with 35,894,000 bushels on July 1, 1923. Stocks in commercial channels were about 10 million bushels greater than at the corresponding time in 1923 so that unless stocks in mills and elevators are larger than last year which does not seem probable, the carryover will be but little above that of last year.

Large Canadian Crop Being Rapidly Reduced.

The large Canadian crop which was an important factor in the United States markets during the year has also moved out rapidly. Commercial stocks on July 1 were estimated at 45,000,000 bushels compared with 25,000,000 July 1, 1923, but monthly exports have been materially larger. Exports from Canada for the year ending June 30, 1924, are estimated at 349,000,000 bushels which sets a new record for the net exportation of wheat from any country in any one year. Thus the United States, which for fifty years, except for a few years of short crops, led the world in wheat exports, dropped to second place in 1922-23 and to third place in 1923-24, with net exports of only 126,000,000 bushels as against 165,000,000 bushels from Argentina.

July 1 estimates of the United States wheat crop indicate a crop of 543,000,000 bushels of winter wheat and 197,000,000 bushels of spring wheat. Of the winter wheat about two-thirds of the amount is of the hard winter varieties while the soft winter wheat crop is about 20 per cent below last year's production. More of the hard winter wheat, therefore, will be available for market than last year. While the spring wheat crop as now estimated will be about 16,000,000 bushels less than last year, the decrease is in the states of the Pacific Northwest and there will be, according to the July 1 estimates, about 10,000,000 bushels more spring wheat in the four large producing States east of the Rocky Mountains. With the Durum wheat acreage reduced about 1-1/2 million acres this year over last year the supply of spring wheat other than Durum which will be available for consumption in the United States will be considerably larger than last year.

Imports of Canadian wheat into the United States for consumption during the crop year were slightly over 14 million bushels and the imports into bonded mills for grinding into flour for export were about an equal amount. Since the increased duty on wheat became effective April 6, very little wheat has been imported for consumption and it is not probable that any material amount will be imported next year unless prices in the United States markets advance to the extent of the duty differential. The bonded wheat imports, however, have continued of fair volume and will likely continue to come in good amounts depending upon the foreign flour demand and the price of wheat in the United States.

OUTLOOK FOR AMERICAN WHEAT MORE FAVORABLE, Cont'd.

Price Level Advanced During Year.

While the price level for the 1923 crop was lower during most of the year than for the crops of the two preceding years, the trend was upward except during the period of heavy movement in October and November and during March when for a time it seemed that the carryover would be unusually large. The average price of all classes and grades of wheat at four of the principal markets on July 1, 1923, was $1.00 per bushel, and advanced steadily during August and September, reaching about $1.13 the first of October. From that point there was a steady decline until December 1st when the average prices touched $1.06. The advance beginning in December, however, carried prices back to $1.13 and the decline during March amounted to only about $.02 per bushel, after which a steady improvement in the market brought prices to the highest level for the crop year at $1.23 July 1, 1924. This was $.06 above the price level on July 1, 1923, and practically the same as the price on July 1, 1922.

The important factors in the price movement were first, the heavy movement to market which occurred in October and November, the large visible supply in commercial channels which held prices well below those of the previous year during the greater part of the crop year, and toward the last of the year the rapid consumption of world stocks together with new crop conditions which early in the spring began to appear less favorable than last year.

While it is impossible to forecast market prices for any given period there are a number of factors which will have considerable influence upon the market situation. With a smaller crop in the Northern Hemisphere and also in the United States, the world price and also the domestic price of wheat will tend to remain upon the higher level which the market had reached at the close of the present crop year. This higher price level, however, may restrict the demand in those countries in which the lower prices last year induced a greater consumption and may cause a reaction in the market situation and prevent any material advance.

Argentine and Australian competition will continue to be an important factor in our market situation but the full extent of this competition can not be determined until more definite information is available relative to the new crop which will come on the market soon after the first of the year.

Canada will continue to be our most active competitor in foreign markets and development of the crop in that country will continue to be an important factor in the United States markets.

WHEAT AND RYE IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES, 1923 AND 1924

Item	1923	1924	1924 Decrease from 1923	1924 Increase over 1923
WHEAT	Thousands	Thousands	Per cent	Per cent
Acreage 14 countries previously published	70,671	69,421	1.8	--
United States .... Acres	58,308	53,818	7.7	--
Canada .... "	22,672	21,676	4.4	--
France .... "	13,672	13,463	1.5	--
Yugoslavia .... "	3,843	4,071	---	5.9
Morocco .... "	2,249	2,331	---	3.6
Tunis .... "	1,559	1,026	34.2	--
Total 21 countries .... "	172,947	165,806	4.1	--
Total Northern Hemisphere a .... "	188,157	---	---	--
Production				
United States .... Bushels	785,741	740,012	5.2	--
Belgium .... "	13,376	12,750	4.7	--
Spain .... "	157,110	136,318	13.2	--
Italy .... "	224,836	176,368	21.6	--
Hungary .... "	67,677	62,353	7.9	--
Bulgaria .... "	36,223	37,956	---	4.8
Morocco .... "	20,050	27,972	---	39.5
India .... "	369,152	361,723	2.0	--
Total 8 countries .... "	1,674,160	1,505,452	7.1	
Total Northern Hemisphere a ...... "	3,034,602	---	---	--
RYE				
Acreage 7 countries previously reported.	14,836	14,097	5.0	--
United States .... Acres	5,157	4,337	15.9	--
Canada .... "	1,488	1,277	11.8	--
France .... "	2,215	2,159	2.5	--
Spain .... "	1,801	1,872	---	3.9
Czechoslovakia .... "	2,125	2,123	.1	--
Yugoslavia .... "	462	392	15.2	--
Rumania .... "	668	507	24.1	--
Latvia .... "	649	658		1.4
Total 15 countries .... "	29,361	27,422	6.6	
Production				
United States .... Bushels	63,023	64,768	---	2.8
Belgium .... "	20,737	19,723	5.1	--
Spain .... "	28,075	33,108	---	17.9
Bulgaria .... "	6,862	6,574	4.2	--
Total 4 countries .... "	118,747	124,173	---	4.6

a Exclusive of Russia.

RICE ACREAGES IN COUNTRIES REPORTING FOR 1924.

Country	1923	1924
	Acres	Acres
United States	a 883,000	a 899,000
Italy	302,700	308,900
Bulgaria	8,500	6,800
Ceylon	800,000	800,000
Indo China:		
Annam	b 1,037,900	b 963,700
Total	3,032,100	2,978,400
World total	128,519,000	-

International Institute of Agriculture April, May Bulletins 1924. Cablegram dated July 6, 1924. United States Crop Report issued by Division of Crop and Livestock Estimates July 9, 1924.

a. July estimate. b First 6 months. The total area in 1923 was 2,009,000 acres.

WHEAT SURPLUS AND REQUIREMENTS

Broomhall on June 24 issued his estimate of the wheat available for export from the principal exporting countries from the crop now being harvested based upon crop conditions received up to that time, as follows:

Estimates for Season, 1924-25. Exporting Countries.

	Available Surpluses	Likely Exports
	Thousand Bushels	Thousand Bushels
Quantities afloat August 1	56,000	56,000
United States	144,000	128,000
Canada	288,000	264,000
Argentine and Uruguay	216,000	192,000
Australia	88,000	88,000
Black Sea Region	24,000	16,000
India	48,000	24,000
North Africa	--	--
Hungary	12,000	12,000
Sundries	4,000	4,000
Total	880,000	784,000
Deduct quantity on passage end of season	32,000	32,000
	848,000	752,000

Taking the total of the probable exports he apportions them among the importing countries as follows:

Importing Countries

	Imports, 1923-24	Probable Imports 1924-25
	Thousand Bushels	Thousand Bushels
United Kingdom	232,000	228,000
France	60,000	68,000
Italy	76,000	96,000
Austria	18,400	18,400
Germany	44,000	52,000
Czechoslovakia	16,800	17,600
Holland	21,600	21,600
Belgium	40,000	40,000
Spain, Portugal, and Colonies	2,400	4,000
Greece	18,400	21,600
Switzerland	20,000	20,000
Scandinavia	28,000	32,000
Turkey and Malta	12,000	12,800
Other Continent	4,000	4,000
Total Europe	593,600	636,000
Algeria, Tunis, and Morocco	....	4,000
		640,000
Other Ex. Europe	148,000	112,000
GRAND TOTAL	741,600	752,000

WHEAT: NET EXPORTS OF PRINCIPAL EXPORTING COUNTRIES, YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1923 WITH ESTIMATES FOR 1924.

Countries	Year ending June 30, 1923	Latest date available for 1924 with comparisons for 1923: Date	1923	1924	Estimated exports for 1924
	1,000 Bushels		1,000 Bushels	1,000 Bushels	1,000 Bushels
Canada	274,886	July-May	248,586	315,642	349,000
United States..	201,978	July-May	189,298	119,083	126,000
India	23,484	July-May	16,242	13,214	17,000
Argentina (a)..	145,428	July-May	130,553	145,739	165,000
Australia (a)..	49,625	July-May	46,733	75,753	80,000
Algeria	(b) 885	July-March	802	9,145	10,000
Tunis	(b) 378	July-March	357	3,285	3,500
Total....	696,664		632,571	681,861	750,500

Compiled from official sources except where otherwise noted.
a/ Gross exports.
b/ International Institute of Agriculture.

RYE; NET IMPORTS INTO EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, YEARS ENDING JUNE 30, 1923, WITH ESTIMATES FOR 1924.

Countries	Year ending June 30, 1923	Latest date available for 1924 with comparisons for 1923: Date	1923	1924	Estimated imports for 1924
	1,000 Bushels		1,000 Bushels	1,000 Bushels	1,000 Bushels
Finland	5,913	July-April	4,797	8,365	10,000
Netherlands ...	1,913	July-April	1,196	5,305	7,000
Austria	a/ 1,586	July-March	a/ 1,268	a/ 2,354	3,000
Norway	b/ 7,053	July-April	5,278	6,624	9,000
Denmark	4,989	July-April	3,910	7,856	10,000
Belgium	c/ 945	July-April	c/	871	1,000
Sweden	371	July-April	274	3,640	4,000
France	15	July-March		946	1,000
Germany	42,114	July-April	36,039	23,394	27,000
Italy	224	July-February	153	c/	
Total	65,123		52,915	59,355	72,000

Compiled from official sources except where otherwise noted.
a/ International Crop Report of the International Institute of Agriculture, May 1924 and September 1923.
b/ Six months figure for flour.
c/ Net export.

WHEAT, INCLUDING FLOUR: NET IMPORTS INTO EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1923 WITH ESTIMATES FOR 1924.

Country	Year ending June 30, 1923	Latest data available for 1924, with comparisons for 1923			Estimated imports for 1924
		Date	1923	1924	
	1,000 Bushels		1,000 Bushels	1,000 Bushels	1,000 Bushels
United Kingdom..	202,824	July-May	183,186	194,730	216,000
Italy	110,227	July-February	66,066	42,627	70,000
Germany	42,053	July-April	38,000	23,965	30,000
France	41,354	July-March	30,342	34,823	47,000
Belgium	39,491	July-April	31,920	32,426	42,000
Netherlands	22,570	July-April	21,185	23,617	26,000
Greece	18,479	July-February	a/ 10,956	a/ 11,731	20,000
Switzerland	a/ 16,553	July-March	a/ 14,977	a/ 12,640	14,000
Austria	a/ 12,855	July-March	a/ 10,001	a/ 13,068	17,000
Czechoslovakia..	10,862	July-March	a/ 9,325	a/ 11,523	14,000
Sweden	8,298	July-April	6,208	9,421	13,000
Norway	6,619	July-April	5,397	5,148	7,000
Denmark	5,984	July-April	5,191	7,483	9,000
Finland	4,563	July-April	3,554	3,882	5,000
Poland	a/ 2,445	July-January	a/ 269	269	1,000
Spain	b/				
TOTAL	545,177		436,577	427,353	531,000

Compiled from: Official sources except where otherwise noted.

Notes: a/ International Crop Report of the International Institute of Agriculture.
b/ Small net exports.

AMERICAN FLOUR IN MANCHURIA

Reporting under date of May 21, 1924, Mr. G. C. Hanson, American Consul at Harbin, China, speaks of the unfavorable position native millers find themselves with regard to American flour. They appealed to the Chinese Eastern Railway to increase the freight on imported flour so that the domestic product can find a market at home.

Milling interests in the Harbin district work at a distinct disadvantage when faced with the cheaper imported flour. Both grain and fuel must be hauled to the flour mills at a cost decidedly greater than that at which the flour can be transported from tidewater to interior points. Bountiful harvests and comparatively cheap grain are apparently of no assistance to the Manchurian. Transportation is his great problem, and unless the railway helps him, American flour can capture the market.

THE RUSSIAN GRAIN TRADE

Broomhall's "Corn Trade News" recently carried a statement said to come from the Director of Grain Export of the Foreign Trade Commissariat at Moscow to the effect that the grain export activities needed about 35 million dollars to pay off grain supplies. This means that domestic obligations incurred in moving the last crop have not yet been met. The Director alleges departmental obstruction, and worse, in the Commissariat of Finance, which may force Russian commercial agents abroad to try and interest foreign capital in Russian grain exporting.

The whole situation of Russian grain exporting has assumed such an atmosphere of mystery and uncertainty as to render very difficult any accurate analysis of existing conditions. Certain grain dealers declare that the whole year's activity in Russian grain was conducted at a loss to the Soviets to enable large sales to be made. That could result in a shortage of ready cash as readily as could a misappropriation of agent's receipts, or a diversion of profits from the Grain Export Bureau to other Governmental activities. Putting the best light on the matter, certain persons supposed to know say that transportation and other charges in Russia would be quite enough to eat up any profit made in Russian grain sales at the low prices asked. In short, either the grain money was taken away from the foreign Trade Commissariat, or else heavy overhead did not allow any profit to accumulate. The result is that now, with a new crop coming on, the Director of Grain Export says he has no means for financing its movement.

DURUM WHEAT MARKET IN FRANCE

An increased demand for Durum wheat in the Mediterranean market on account of the poor crop in Algeria is to be expected, according to a report upon the Marseille market from Consul Wesley Frost. Algeria is given as the source of the major part of the Durum wheat imported at Marseille. In 1923 a total of 3,858,000 bushels of Durum wheat was imported from Algeria and only 735,000 bushels from the United States. It is reported that the Moroccan wheat crop is turning out better than the Algerian crop but last year a very small amount of Durum wheat was imported from Morocco.

It is estimated that the Marseille market may take as much as 9,000,000 bushels of Durum wheat. Pre-war importations of this wheat amounted to approximately 7,000,000 bushels.

The quantity of wheat taken of course will depend upon price and quality. If the price is high or the quality low, there will be a shrinkage in demand. However, it seems inevitable that there should be some increase in the demand for our best Durum wheat.

TUNISIAN WHEAT.

Tunisia requires 7,332,000 bushels of wheat for annual domestic consumption. Confirmed reports of loss by drought in North Africa indicate that there will be far less than that amount raised this season in Tunisia. In only five years since 1913 has that country raised a true exportable surplus, which occurred in 1923. In that year there was an actual surplus 2,388,000 bushels. Estimates for this year run as low as 2,205,000 bushels, the amount of the short crop of 1914.

As a factor in French supplies of both soft and Durum wheats, Tunisia and Algeria are of no small significance. Europeans, according to a report from Mr. Charles B. Beyland, American Vice Consul at Tunis, cultivate only one-eighth of the total wheat lands, raising mostly soft wheat. All the rest is in the hands of native farmers of durums, who follow very antiquated cultural practices. The rapid improvement of native procedure would not only increase the yields but with proper care and organization of water supply would lessen materially the possibilities of crop failures.

The crop year begins in October, though some natives put in no seed until December or January. Harvesting comes in May and June, putting the wheat on the market at a time of comparatively high prices. The wheat is pushed into export trade, with the result that more than once, Tunisia has had to import wheat from Australia and Argentina. For example, the crop harvested in June 1923 was a good one, with a real exportable surplus. By November 1, 2,069,000 bushels had been exported and within a month more the whole surplus was over the water. By January 1924, importations began, followed in February by a decree prohibiting further exports of wheat and barley.

Thus Tunisia has always been an importing country, regardless of her own success with the crop. In 1920, the heaviest importing year since the war, the United States supplied 99.9 per cent of the 1,040,000 bushels imported into Tunisia, which percentage fell to 39.5 per cent of a slightly smaller total in 1921. In that year Argentina contributed 34.1 per cent and other countries the remainder. The 1923-24 import figures are not yet ready, but it is safe to assume no great increase in takings of American grain, with very good chances for a reduction. The situation illustrates an interesting cycle. Were it not for North African wheat, America might supply a larger share of France's needs.

RUSSIAN DAIRY INDUSTRY.

Russia expects to export a total of 40,000,000 pounds of butter during the current year, against some 10,000,000 pounds exported during 1923. Advices from Mr. Emil Kekich, Secretary to the American Trade Commissioner of Riga, Latvia, state that the impression is current among Latvian dairy interests that within the next two or three years Russia will be exporting her pre-war annual average of some 160,000,000 pounds.

Russian dairies, located largely in Siberia, are said to have increased in number considerably since January 1. One large firm alone controls 3,000 plants. All of the Russian dairies manufacture on contract with British and Danish interests, which have financed the rebuilding of Russian dairying and have directed operations to a considerable degree. Usually the foreign consignees in the United Kingdom or Denmark advance 75 per cent of the purchase price against consignments on rail in Siberia. With the revival of business comes a noticeable shortage of dairying equipment which it is expected will be supplied as rapidly as expanded business provides the requisite funds.

The Soviet Government apparently intends to establish a butter control organization at Teningrad and to make that port the sole outlet for Russian butter, cheese and eggs. Much of the butter exported to Denmark is retained in that country to release the Danish-made product for overseas consumption. With trained Danish dairymen looking after their interests in Russia, Danish exporters hope to bring the Russian product up to a standard warranting immediate re-export from Denmark of larger quantities than have heretofore been so disposed of.

APPLES IN NOVA SCOTIA AND NEW BRUNSWICK.

A long cool spring prevented premature development of buds and blossoms of apples in the Annapolis Valley of Nova Scotia, with the result that prospects for the 1924 apple crop are excellent. Yields are expected to easily equal the 2,000,000 barrels produced in 1923, which crop compared favorably with the 1,800,000 barrels for 1922.

Mr. Conger Reynolds, American Vice Consul at Halifax, Nova Scotia, reports that of the 1923 crop, nearly three-quarters went to the markets of the United Kingdom. Of these exports London alone took 457,000 barrels, with Manchester second at 430,000 barrels. Newfoundland took 14,000 barrels, with 4,000 going to the West Indies. The cities of Halifax and St. John consumed 28,000 and 25,000 respectively.

LIVESTOCK - NUMBER IN SPAIN.

Livestock	1913	1922	1923
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
Cattle	2,879	3,297	3,435
Swine	2,710	4,229	4,728
Sheep	16,441	19,377	18,550
Goats	3,394	3,971	3,804
Horses	542	594	626
Mules	948	1,069	1,100
Asses	849	1,014	1,033

Anuario Estadistico de Espana 1922. International Institute of Agriculture August 1923, page 341, April 1924, page 154.

LIVESTOCK - NUMBER IN IRELAND.

Livestock	June 1913	June 1922	June 1923
Horses	614,482	544,464	521,029
Mules and jennets ..	30,338	25,784	24,486
Asses	243,339	232,438	230,733
Cattle	4,932,625	5,156,625	4,989,362
Sheep	3,620,724	3,566,521	3,528,797
Pigs	1,060,360	1,036,726	1,345,651
Goats	246,348	250,443	256,150

Official Statistics of Ireland and International Institute of Agriculture April 1924.

LIVESTOCK - NUMBER IN NORWAY.

Livestock	In Rural Communities		
	December 31, 1907	December 31, 1920	November 20, 1923.
Horses	161,745	215,979	193,157
Cattle	1,022,387	1,094,818	1,131,120
Sheep	989,561	956,607	1,525,281
Goats	222,217	178,051	241,753
Pigs	157,695	126,865	237,302

Statistisk Aarbog 1922, page 49 - International Institute of Agriculture, May 1924.

LIVESTOCK - NUMBER IN FRENCH MOROCCO.

Livestock	1922	1923
Cattle	1,558,253	1,682,998
Horses	149,732	162,353
Asses	448,712	482,642
Mules	60,818	62,567
Sheep	6,318,925	7,120,792
Goats	2,059,573	2,358,599
Pigs	77,673	48,564

International Institute of Agriculture March 1924, page 105.

LIVESTOCK - NUMBER IN CUBA.

Livestock	December 31, 1913	December 31, 1921	December 31, 1922	June 30, 1923
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
Cattle	3,141	4,771	4,877	4,976
Horses	625	859	889	840
Asses	2	3	4	4
Mules	46	72	78	77

International Institute of Agriculture March 1924, page 105.

LIVESTOCK - NUMBER IN PALESTINE.

Livestock	1922	1923
Horses	6,022	-
Cattle	92,120	-
Buffaloes	1,217	1,188
Sheep	262,080	270,593
Goats	482,104	496,160
Pigs	930	475
Camels	17,926	16,344

International Institute of Agriculture, March 1924, page 105.

LIVESTOCK - NUMBER IN YUGOSLAVIA.

Livestock	January 1921 Census	1922	1923
Cattle	4,960,000	4,003,920	4,053,115
Buffaloes	51,000	31,938	31,696
Swine	3,373,000	2,902,399	2,577,704
Sheep	7,011,000	7,820,704	7,542,110
Goats	1,553,000	1,728,408	1,681,219
Horses	1,069,000	1,043,443	1,034,139
Mules	18,000	15,002	15,492
Asses	84,000	86,036	88,845

International Institute of Agriculture May 1924, page 196.

THE FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN SWITZERLAND.

Replying to an inquiry from the Arquette Products Co. of Hoquiam, Washington, Mr. Thorwell Hayes, American Consul at Berne, reports that slaughtering of badly infected animals is considered essential. In interesting contrast are the regulations in France, where slaughtering is prohibited. Germany, apparently feels that there is a sure cure for the malady. The American Consul at Frankfort on Main, Mr. F. T. F. Dumont, says he is in contact with a man in Darmstadt, Hessen, who claims to have an infallible remedy.

The Swiss, however, remove sick animals promptly, disinfect the stables and kill the stock at a central abattoir, with encouraging results. Since 1920 there has not been enough of the disease to provide material for large scale work with preventive serums, the general efficacy of which is a question of some debate among Swiss veterinarians. Results obtained during the epidemic mentioned, however, were said to show that serums diminished the malignity of the disease, lessened the number of contagious and made second attacks less frequent. Best results have been obtained with young cattle which, says the Chief Veterinarian, would surely have died otherwise.

Cattle once attacked are said to be rendered immune for a time, but some have been known to relapse after having been pronounced cured, and others have been known to have suffered three attacks in one year.

TENERIFFE ONIONSEED CROP.

Mr. Raymond Phelan, American Vice-Consul at Teneriffe, Canary Islands, reports that the 1924 onionseed crop will be only 90,000 pounds, of which 70,000 pounds will come to the United States. Brazil will get most of the remaining 20,000 pounds.

While the tone of the report conveys the impression of a short crop, the 70,000 pounds available for export to America indicates a normal situation. Previous reports show that, while onion culture in the Teneriffe Consular District is very much influenced by conditions in America, an exportation of more than 70,000 pounds would be extraordinarily large. In fact, the onionseed crop of 1923 totalled only some 70,000 pounds, which in that year was believed to be in excess of American demands. Leading dealers and growers in the Canaries state that the United States expects no more than the above figure and no less than 50,000 pounds of onionseed annually from the Canary Islands.

The 1923 season was bad in December, which, coupled with fear of a repetition of the slack demand in 1922 from America, created a short crop. This season has been excessively dry, which has been said to have caused considerable damage. An insect heretofore unknown in those parts, and probably encouraged by dry conditions, has been found to infest young plants immediately under the flower. Black rot is said to have been unusually bad this year. In addition to the conditions mentioned, tomato culture for the past two seasons has proved so remunerative that considerable acreage heretofore devoted to onionseed has been put under tomatoes. Whatever growing conditions may be, however, seed exporters are said to have already contracted for all the available export product and expect good prices. An indifferent crop in California has sustained Teneriffe prices at a high level, the average of which some dealers expect to stand at $1.25 a pound, compared with the average of $1.00 a pound last year.

BOXES VS. CASKS IN THE BRITISH BUTTER MARKET.

The significance of packing products in a manner attractive to the trade appears when certain parts of Great Britain express a preference for butter in casks or tubs rather than in square boxes. Years before Colonial butter became a factor in the United Kingdom, Danish butter had been received in tubs. Thus, good butter was associated with casks. The colonial product, constantly improving in quality, has had to overcome not only habits of taste but also the effect of years of associating the form of a package with the quality of its contents.

Comment on the above facts are contained in a clipping from the "Yorkshire Observer" for June 7, 1924, forwarded by Mr. E. A. Foley, American Agricultural Commissioner at London. It is pointed out that the long haul by water from the Colonies to market is responsible for the adoption of the oblong box for butter shipments. Cargo space is sold by volume for butter and boxes are more economically packed in a ship's hold than are casks. In calculating costs on Colonial butter, freight is a very important item, which means that as long as the bulk of the business can be done in boxes, there will be no change in the form of the package.

The United States has never had to depend upon imported butter so that consumers in America are not in the habit of judging this product by its container. The point to be made, however, is that in developing a new market or breaking into one controlled heretofore by a competitor, the exporter of any product should be careful to note local habits and prejudices, putting his product up in the form most attractive to the customer. Such care for detail is frequently of greater importance than the actual quality of the goods themselves, particularly in markets wherein the product is more or less new. In more than one instance American firms have lost business to competitors through not giving the package form due consideration.

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